absorbing devices should be evaluated experimentally before they are used in practice. Design of buildings and equipment using such device should be reviewed by the Competent Authority.

Base isolation systems are found useful for short period structures, say less than 0.7 sec. including soil—structure material".

The above provision would facilitate the adoption of such technology in the country with due consideration of its performance and quality control.

Government is open to adopt base isolation technique for buildings wherever necessary. As a beginning, recently in Gujarat the new Bhuj hospital building has been designed and being constructed using Lead Rubber Bearing in collaboration with experts from New Zealand.

The experience of this building will help in extending the above technology to other important structures.

(d) Possibility of transfer of technology with Malaysia Rubber Board for manufacture of rubber bearing is under consideration by the scientific community in the country.

Experts are also engaged in developing guidelines and methods to use this technology of base-isolation for different types of buildings in earthquake prone regions.

Drinking water from Narmada to Jabalpur Cantonment

†3616. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide drinking water from Narmada river to the inhabitants of Jabalpur Cantonment is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have not accorded their sanction so far for implementation of this scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and since when this project is pending with the Government for obtaining NOC;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to initiate work on the scheme by according sanction; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) The formal sanction has to be issued by General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C), Central Command, Lucknow. The approval of Directorate General Defence Estates is being conveyed to the GOC-in-C. The proposal is in the initial stage of consultancy for making out water supply scheme for Jabalpur Cantonment.

Cities of Bihar included under Mega City Scheme

†3617. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any Centrally-sponsored scheme for development of infrastructure in mega cities;

(b) if so, the names of the cities in the State of Bihar which have been included in the said scheme;

(c) whether Muzaffarpur city will be included under the said scheme;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities was launched in 1993-94. The Scheme was applicable to cities with a population of 40 lakhs & above as per 1991 census.

None of cities in Bihar, including Muzaffarpur, had population of 40 lakhs and above, as per 1991 census. As such no city in Bihar was included under the said scheme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.